

State Senator • Deb Cherry news

08/05

For the Seniors of the 26th District

I'm privileged to represent you in Lansing. I value your life experiences and the support that you've shown me during my first term in office. As all of you are already aware, our state faces some challenges that can only be overcome with a collective determination to succeed.

I believe we can do it. We can protect the hard-earned reward of retirees who have invested their lives in making Michigan great. We can educate present and future generations who will advance our state's place in the world. We can provide for those who are the most vulnerable in society. We can move our state forward as one family.

I ask you for your expertise. We need your wisdom to make a difference in the way we govern.

Sincerely,

Deb Cherry

State Senator • 26th District

E-Mail Newsletter Available



I am currently sending out periodic e-mail newsletters to keep you informed about what's going on in Lansing, as well as other important information from around the state.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please send your e-mail address to: sendcherry@senate.michigan.gov and I'll be sure to add you to our mailing list. Please also visit my State Senate website, www.senate.michigan.gov/cherry which will keep you up to date on my activities in Lansing as well as in the district.



How To Contact Me

**State Senator
Deb Cherry**

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Clip and Save

Mark Your Calendar

You won't want to miss the **FREE** spaghetti dinner with

Ernie Harwell

(See details on back page.)

September 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Cherry Dedicated to Improving Long Term Health Care

I have helped Michigan put its money where its mouth is when it comes to improving long term health care. I, along with 20 other members of the Long Term Care Task Force, efficiently framed solutions to the state's long term care issues.

Gov. Granholm recently signed an executive order putting into effect some recommendations. This action fulfills Democratic lawmakers' promise to improve the state's long term care system.

The task force made nine recommendations that reshape the way Michigan approaches long term care. Applying the group's recommendations could result in more personal, accessible, and affordable long term care.



Long Term Care Task Force Recommendations

1. Require and implement person-centered planning practices throughout the long term care continuum and honor the individual's preferences, choices, and abilities. Person-centered planning allows the individual to make the choices that best suit his or her needs.
2. Improve access by establishing "money follows the person" principles that allow individuals to determine, through an informed choice process, where and how their benefits will be used.
3. Designate locally or regionally based "Single Point of Entry" (SPE) agencies for consumers of long term care. This allows everyone to get services by working with one single agency.
4. Strengthen the array of services and supports by removing limits on the settings served by MI Choice waiver services and expanding the list of funded services. This allows consumers to have more options of where to live, while also having a wide selection of services based on their preferences.
5. Support, implement, and sustain prevention activities through (1) community health principals, (2) caregiver support, and (3) injury control, chronic care management, and palliative care programs that enhance the quality of life, provide person-centered outcomes, and delay or prevent entry into the long term care system.
6. Promote meaningful consumer participation and education in the system by establishing

Recommendations continued from previous page

a Long Term Care Commission and informing the public about the available array of options.

7. Establish a new Quality Management System for all long term care programs that includes a consumer advocate and a Long Term Care Administration that would be responsible for the coordination of policy and practice of long term care.
8. Build and sustain culturally competent, highly valued, competitively compensated and knowledgeable long term care workforce teams that provide high quality care within a supportive environment and are responsive to consumer needs and choices.

9. Adopt financing structures that maximize resources, promote consumer incentives, and decrease fraud.

As the system develops, consumers of these services will have a choice from an array of long term care supports to live a full and

dignified life. You can view the Task Force's report in full at <http://www.healthteam.msu.edu/imc/LTC/default.htm>. Please feel free to contact my office at 866-305-2126 with any questions or comments that may arise in regards to long term care.



Senator Cherry Holds Office Hours

I invite you to share a concern, ask a question, or just chat. Office hours are every third Friday of the month, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Waterford Township Offices, 5200 Civic Center Drive, 3rd Floor Conference Room.

Office Hours 2005

August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16





State Senator
Deb Cherry

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Ernie Harwell Dinner Planned



I invite those of you age 50 and over to dine with me and the quintessential voice of Tiger baseball, Ernie Harwell. The beloved sports treasure will be the guest speaker at a **FREE** spaghetti dinner on Thursday, September 15, from 4-6 p.m., at Oakland ISD,

2111 Pontiac Lake Rd. in Waterford. All of those interested in attending this wonderful event **must pre-register by calling my office toll-free at (866) 305-2126**. A great evening is in store for all who love baseball. **It is important to pre-register because only the first 500 people will be admitted.**

Mr. Harwell thrilled baseball fans as an announcer for 55 years, spending 42 years with the Detroit Tigers before his retirement. The man with the mello voice set the standard by which major league baseball is announced.

His storied career includes many firsts. In 1948, Mr. Harwell became the

only announcer in baseball history to be traded for a player when the Brooklyn Dodgers' General Manager, Branch Rickey, traded catcher Cliff Dapper to the Atlanta Crackers in exchange for breaking Mr. Harwell's broadcasting contract. More than four decades later, in 1989, Mr. Harwell was elected to the National Sportscasters Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. In 1998, he was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Harwell was honored by the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981 as only the fifth broadcaster to receive its Ford C. Frick Award. He has written several books and files an occasional column for the *Detroit Free Press*.